State Building, one of New York City’s most prominent landmarks, paid tribute to the 130th anniversary of Ukrainian independence on August 24 by lighting the top 590 feet of the 1,453-foot building in the colors of the Ukrainian national flag.

It was the first time the building was lit to commemorate Ukraine’s independence, but a mistake made earlier that day left the colors of the national flag reversed. Instead of what should have been blue, the top 590 feet of the 1,453-foot building lit yellow with a large section of blue below the yellow.

A correction was made the following day after some 25 phone calls and four e-mail messages were left with the building’s public relations office on the evening of August 24.

A spokesperson for the Empire State Building told The Ukrainian Weekly that the lighting mix-up was an inadvertent error.

“I was very upset, angry and disappointed to learn that the colors had been reversed on the tower Tuesday evening,” said Lydia Ruth, the building’s director of public relations and special projects coordinator. Mrs. Ruth is the person behind the building’s lighting schemes and the one responsible for granting any specific requests.

But, in this case, the mistake was apparently made well before the lights came on for the night. It takes six of the building’s staff electricians four hours to manually prepare a lighting scheme for the night. Their mistake was not known until hours after they had left for the day, when night settled on New York City and observers saw the Ukrainian national flag turned upside down — which in some instances is a signal that a nation is in distress.

Fortunately, the tower was scheduled to be lit Wednesday evening, and so I was able to reschedule the Independence Day lighting tribute for Wednesday evening and this time the colors were displayed in the proper sequence,” Mrs. Ruth said in an e-mail message sent in response to one of the original complaints. That e-mail was subsequently provided to The Weekly.

Mrs. Ruth, who has been working at the Empire State Building for 19 years, said it was the first time a lighting request to commemorate Ukrainian independence had come to her attention.

Iryna Liber, executive secretary of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), said she wanted “to do something new for Ukrainians to celebrate Independence Day.

Sen. Lugar is questioned in Ukraine about stalled Famine-Genocide resolution

by Roman Woronowycz

KYIV – Sen. Richard Lugar stated on September 1 while on a trip to Kyiv that the Senate resolution acknowledging the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine as genocide had not moved from his Senate Foreign Relations Committee because it lacks sufficient support among committee members.

“We have many resolutions that we must address. I would say that this one specifically is one that has not found widespread support among the committee members,” Mr. Lugar said in response to the question posed by The Ukrainian Weekly. “It has not made it to the business committee yet, which is one of the first steps. It would probably not receive a majority for passage in any event.”

When informed that a majority of members of the Foreign Relations Committee had, in fact, signed on in support of the resolution, the Republican senator from Indiana replied, “I did not know that. I’ll have to review that to be sure.”

After the press conference, The Weekly’s correspondent was approached by a Kenneth Myers III, a senior professional staff member of the Foreign Relations Committee, who suggested that The Weekly call Sen. Lugar’s press secretary in Washington for an explanation.

Andrew Nynka, an editor on The Weekly’s staff in Parsippany, N.J., contacted Andy Fisher, press secretary for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Asked to clarify Mr. Lugar’s remarks, Mr. Fisher, said: “The issue has been that there is no support for this particular language in the Senate resolution from the White House and we’re trying to work it out to make modifications to the language with the supporters” of the resolution.

Asked what particular language he was referring to, Mr. Fisher said: “The

Ukraine concludes Olympics with 23 medals

by Roman Woronowycz

KYIV – Ukraine finished in the first dozen in both the gold medal standings and the overall medal count at the Athens Olympics with a flurry of wins in the last two days of the Games.

First, on August 28, wrestler Elbrus Tedeyev took a gold in the 66-kilogram weight class with a convincing victory over Jhamil Kelly of the United States.

Then, on the final day of competition, Ukraine finished strongly, taking three bronze medals with third-place finishes by Hanna Bezzonova in rhythmic gymnastics, Viktoria Stiopina in the high jump and the women’s handball team.

The Ukrainian wrestler’s win gave Ukraine a total of nine gold medals for these Games, equaling its best previous effort. He finally achieved a gold medal in freestyle wrestling after taking a bronze in Atlanta in 1996 and then failing to medal in Sydney in 2000.

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Ten years ago last month, Leonid Kuchma defeated the incumbent, Leonid Kravchuk, in the first presidential election in Ukraine’s history. The United Parliamentary Fraction, led by Viktor Medvedchuk, who oversaw the economic disaster of the early 1990s, today is the head of Mr. Medvedchuk’s Social Democratic Party – United Socialists, and castigated his left-wing and right-wing opponents for wanting a “revolution.”

Mr. Kuchma also ignored the huge social consequences of the past decade’s “transition to a market economy” to point out that transition was vital for the country. He pointed out that 5 million Ukrainians have been forced to seek work abroad. He made a similar point, in his first election in 1994, to build Ukrainian statehood, introduce a market economy, and form a democratic civil society and make the Ukrainians a “self-contained political nation.”

Mr. Kuchma noted that Ukraine will need a “few decades more” to reach these four ambitions goals. Therefore, he called on his successor to continue the same political course. The length of the period of Ukraine’s transformation objectively requires that we consider continuity in the political course,” the president said.

“...police accused of ‘provocation’ ...

Kiev: There is a need to introduce constitutional amendments changing the political system in Ukraine before the October 31 presidential election. Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)
IN THE PRESS: Yushchenko in the Wall Street Journal

The following article by Our Ukraine leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko appeared under the headline “Ukraine’s Choice” in the U.S. and European editions of the Wall Street Journal on August 24. It is reprinted here with permission from Our Ukraine Update.

by Viktor Yushchenko

KYIV – Thirty-three years ago today, Ukraine’s Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, declared our country’s independence from the Soviet Union. This historic choice, later affirmed in a national referendum supported by 90 percent of citizens, changed forever the geopolitical map of Europe. We thought then that our national aspirations for freedom had been realized and that democracy would replace totalitarianism. We believed our people would prosper from the combined rich natural resources and our penchant for hard work. We entrusted our elected leaders with a mandate to govern and integrate Ukraine into the international community.

Today, an overwhelming majority of my fellow citizens – 77 percent – believe Ukraine is going in the wrong direction. Millions live in poverty. Corruption pervades every social institution, from education to justice. Journalists and others who speak the truth are constantly harassed and persecuted. Illegal searches and seizures are common. The average Ukrainian can rely neither on protection from law enforcement officials nor on an open and fair trial in the courts.

Economic inequality signaling growth this year hasn’t resulted in rising living standards. During the first seven months, GDP rose 13.5 percent, but budget revenues rose only 1.8 percent. People view the costs that the government earlier hid and now pass on to them as an unfair bribe paid to voters for their support of the candidate from the ruling regime.

Today the regime of President Leonid Kuchma has returned to complete lawlessness. Surveillance recently organized by state officials against me and my family is a feature of totalitarianism. In democracies, this would be scandalous, but in Ukraine, the government called it “protecting the state.”

Ukrainians face another historic choice this autumn in a presidential election due to be held on October 31. Democratic forces have brought together leading politicians, businessmen and ordinary citizens to fight for real change in Ukrainian society. Recently, I declared my candidacy for the presidency because I believe my policies will enable each citizen to realize his/her democratic opposition parties, breached the right to free assembly, censored free speech and abused state authority at all levels. Because candidates fielded by the ruling regime cannot win free and fair elections, the entire executive branch has been focused on use fraud, intimidation and fear to support their candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Voters see this coercion as opposition to the people of Ukraine.

Official Kyiv’s hollow declarations guar- antee a free and fair election in Ukraine. This fall must be marked by the participation of thousands of domestic and interna- tional election observers. My electoral campaign has trained more than 50,000 Ukrainians from across the country and the entire executive branch has been focused on use fraud, intimidation and fear to support their candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Voters see this coercion as opposition to the people of Ukraine.

In my original profession [as manager of a rocket-building plant], I used to launch the most sophisticated products that I could even imagine. But now [also] has fallen to my lot to feel the greatest happiness that can be bestowed upon a man – to launch my native country into a circumferential orbit of mod- ernization with 135 million Ukrainians and proud ancestors resoundently sunk in the Russified heart of the son of a soldier from the Chernihiv region. Even today I am not indifferent to how the future of my fellow citizens – 77 percent – believe Ukraine is going in the wrong direction. Millions live in poverty. Corruption pervades every social institution, from education to justice. Journalists and others who speak the truth are constantly harassed and persecuted. Illegal searches and seizures are common. The average Ukrainian can rely neither on protection from law enforcement officials nor on an open and fair trial in the courts.

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In my original profession [as manager of a rocket-building plant], I used to launch the most sophisticated products that I could even imagine. But now I have raised our people from their knees. It was a back-breaking task, but it has elevated us, the first Ukrainian state builders.

(Continued on page 18)
OTTAWA – Claudette Wright remembers her grandfather, who died in 1959 at the age of 72, as being “a nice, quiet man” who spoke little and “seemed to be thinking a lot.”

For her, Filip Konowal was a diminutive Ukrainian Canadian man who loved gardening and playing cards, who could dance like a Kozak and who married her French Canadian grandmother, Juliette Auger, a widow who had two sons from her previous marriage.

Now married with four grown children, Mrs. Wright, 65, has begun to appreciate the significance of her grandfather’s World War I heroism that earned him the British Empire’s highest decoration for bravery, the Victoria Cross. She has also learned about the journey that medal has taken when it mysteriously disappeared from the Canadian War Museum’s collection in Ottawa three decades ago to its recovery by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) this past spring just prior to it being sold at an Ontario auction.

“I still don’t realize how important it is,” Mrs. Wright said of Konowal’s Victoria Cross in an interview from her home in the east end Ottawa suburb of Orleans.

“My grandfather never talked to me about his wartime experience and I didn’t think about talking about the war. I wish I had – and I think I’d ask him what he went through, because it wasn’t easy,” she mused.

On August 23, Konowal’s VC was officially welcomed back at the museum at a special ceremony attended by 90 people, including Mrs. Wright, Ukrainian Ambassador Mykola Maimeskul and Ukrainian Defense Attaché Col. Ivan Plyska.

Dr. Lubomyr Lukiuc, research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, also spoke at the 90-minute ceremony attended by members of the Toronto-based Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 (Konowal Branch) and the Governor General’s Foot Guards, the regiment Konowal first joined.

Following a minute of silence in honor of the VC winner, the Rev. Cyril Mykytiuk, pastor of Ottawa’s St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, gave a blessing.

Highlights from the UNA’s 110-year history

The Ukrainian National Association convened its 31st Convention in Dearborn, Mich., just outside of Detroit on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 1986, with 329 delegates and 31 members and honorary members of the Supreme Assembly participating.

The incumbent, John O. Flis, was elected to his third term as supreme president in a close race with Joseph Lesawyer, a former supreme president. The vote was 197 for Mr. Flis and 157 for Mr. Lesawyer.
An appreciation: Taras Shpikula, 1904-1974

September 4 marks the centennial of the birth of Taras Shpikula, a UNA stalwart who served on the fraternal organization’s Supreme Assembly for more than 40 years. Mr. Shpikula, who was born in Kopychynets, Ukraine, on September 4, 1904, died on November 19, 1974, at the age of 70 in Chicago.

He was remembered in an editorial in The Ukrainian Weekly titled “A True UNA’er” published on November 23, 1974. “The name of Taras Shpikula weaves like a golden thread through the history of the UNA and of the Ukrainian community as a whole,” The Weekly wrote. “A modest, unassuming man, he was one of many stalwart leaders who came out of the Windy City. Last May’s UNA Convention in Philadelphia marked the 41st year of his uninterrupted service to the UNA in the post of supreme advisor, an honor that he repeatedly bestowed upon him by the delegates in recognition of outstanding work rendered and a responsibility which he carried in an unpretentious yet ever so productive manner.”

In 1922 Mr. Shpikula had arrived alone in the United States. He was all of 18 years old. He completed high school during the daytime and nights while working during the daytime.

He left behind his wife, Mary, two sons, Taras and Myron, and a daughter, Bohdana-Melody. (Continued on page 18)

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**THE UNA: 110 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY**
The Ukrainian Weekly
Ukraine's third Summer Olympics

The just concluded Olympics in Athens were independent Ukraine's third Summer Games. It was in Atlanta in 1996 that Ukraine made its Summer Olympics debut as a full-fledged independent squad. There, Ukraine fielded a team of 235 that earned Ukraine’s new national ranking and 12 medals, placing the nephewly Olympic country in 10th place in the medals count.

Four years later, in Sydney, Ukraine had 239 athletes competing. The 2000 team won only three gold medals, 10 silver and 12 bronze, with the latter a low number of gold medals placed Ukraine 21st on the list of medal winners.

This year, in the birthplace of the Olympics, Ukraine competed with a team of 143 athletes in 16 sports. The 34 sports that made up the XXVIII Olympiad, earned medals in everything from swimming, judo and shooting to sailing, track and field and handball. The 23 medals earned by Ukraine – nine gold, five silver and nine bronze – landed it in 12th place in the medals count.

Ukraine's goal for Athens was to finish in the top 15 in the Games and to win five gold medals. Thus, Ukraine well exceeded that goal and the expectations of its sports community and fans. The reaction in Ukraine to the team's performance in Athens was very positive. After the results of the first week of competition – five gold medals, a silver and a bronze – landed Team Ukraine in fifth place in the medals count, the public's attention was heightened.

In one of the most remarkable stories as the history of Ukrainian sports is concerned, Galina Melnyk Merlen of Liviv became an Olympic champion in women's freestyle wrestling, a sport that made its Olympic debut in Athens. They rooted for weightlifter Oor Razononov, who, after competing in two previous Summer Games, finally earned an Olympic medal – a bronze that later turned to silver (when the silver medalist was disqualified for stiffness). They cheered for a surprised silver medalist, Oleksa Krasovska, in the 100-meter hurdles. And they rejoiced along with wrestler Elisir Tedyelev when he struck Olympic gold after earning a bronze in Athens and leaving Sydney medal-less.

What also was notable about the 2004 results was that Ukraine's athletes – members of the first team that truly came of age in an independent Ukraine – also have had over 20 medalists in various sports in various competitions.

The women gymnasts, for example, took fourth in the team scoring. Other near-medalists were divers Roman Volodkov and Anton Zakharov (synchronized diving) (105 kg), Greco-Roman wrestler Oleksii Vakulenko (55 kg) and wrestler Yaroslav Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma (1991-

To sum up, the list of four titles on the 77 books and occasion publications presented by the team doctor) for three straight Olympics now, 23 seems to be the magic number for Ukraine. It's a number of which Ukraine and its people, as well as fans beyond the country's borders – like those of us in the United States who happen to catch a glimpse of one from Ukraine – can be proud. So far and for the next Games: Citius, altius, fortius!
The story of Filip Konowal and his Victoria Cross

by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

Too many of their grave markers are inscribed “Known unto God,” placed over whatever remains could be salvaged into graves, wooden crosses of wounds of others were taken in a flash, one moment present – alive, young, brave or not, doing their job, lost into morsels, composted into the roiling battlefields of the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Ypres and such. As a boy there were places I was told we must remember. Today they are mostly forgotten.

It was called The Great War for Civilization. I have sought to know more about one of its soldiers, Cpl. Filip Konowal. For his valor during the Battle of Hill 70, he received the Victoria Cross, presented by His Majesty King George V who remarked that Konowal’s exploits were among the most daring and heroic in the history of his army.

Today Konowal’s Victoria Cross is being returned to its rightful owners, the people of Canada. Until this spring some claimed it was only misplaced, would yet be uncashed, for the War Museum’s collections. In truth, it had been stolen. How else could it end up at public auction? Who took it? When, where? We don’t know.

We don’t know, for the RCMP is not laying criminal charges, is providing no public explanation. No matter, perhaps, for Konowal’s VC was returned, and will reappear in the new Canadian War Museum, a centerpiece in its World War I gallery, finally where it belongs.

But much still remains only “Known Unto God.” Uncalled despite several days of close-quarter combat, dispatching 16 enemy soldiers with bayonet and grenades, Konowal was severely wounded by a sniper, on August 22, 1917, having exposed himself above the parapet wall. Suicidal, as every seasoned soldier knew. Ivan Ackery was a strapper, heart-set who took Konowal out of the line that day. Decades later he returned to Hill 70, he received the Victoria Cross, presented by His Majesty King George V who remarked that Konowal’s exploits were among the most daring and heroic in the history of his army.

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Ukrainian American.

(Continued from page 1)

Farmer because he saw opportunity and was willing to take a risk, which is what is needed to succeed in today’s highly commercialized international agricultural market.

“It was difficult at the beginning. The government had its hands on everything: grain pricing, grain storage, transportation, the rail, the ports, and the export price. But in the late ’90s they finally began liberalizing the market,” explained Mr. Fedorowycz.

He added that a transformative moment came with the presidential edict of 1999 that formally ended collectivization and allowed villagers to take parcels of the land they had farmed and to lease them out, including to foreigners.

Today Mr. Fedorowycz has 20,000 acres of some of the world’s richest agricultural land at his disposal in Cherkasy, and another 12,000 in Kirovohrad, farther south of here. He is using the land to cultivate several crops, including soybeans, lupins and corn, not the typical products produced by the Ukrainian farmer.

Mr. Fedorowycz is also unusual in that he is that rare type of foreign investor in Ukraine: a Ukrainian American who has taken a financial risk and is working his craft in the country of his forefathers to help develop the “new economy” and to reap the benefits it can provide.

Few Ukrainian Americans have been willing over the years to ride the roller coaster called the Ukrainian economy. Many left quickly after the international finance crisis of 1998-1999. Fewer still have shown the persistence and determination to succeed at business in Ukraine that Mr. Fedorowycz has. Since arriving here in 1991 to test his business acumen he has dabbled in commodity trading in Lviv, held an interest in an oil and gas-warehousing firm, had investments ripped off, then became a farm machinery leaser before moving into agricultural production.

Now, he is preparing to ride the tide of a strongly developing Ukrainian economy as a producer and seller of various agricultural commodities in the heart of Ukraine’s “chornozem” (black earth) region. More importantly, today he finally looks well-placed to reap the benefit of more than a decade of learning how to run a profitable business in this former Soviet republic.

In the last five years Ukraine’s economy has grown dynamically, reaching 12 percent growth in the first half of this year. Foreign investment, relatively dormant in Ukraine until last year, finally has begun to enter the country – last year to the tune of $1 billion, and this year projected to reach more than $2 billion.

While the country’s growth has been strongest in light industry, wood, furniture and construction, agricultural development has played no small part in the country’s economic development. In 2004 Ukraine is expected to gather some 36 million tons of grain, nearly half for export. The amount is second only to the 40 million harvested in 2002.

As any good businessperson would know, you need to know your product to profit from it. So, Mr. Fedorowycz went looking for a partner with agricultural expertise who had the same optimistic outlook about Ukraine’s agricultural future and the same determination to do successful, large-scale farming in the country. He found him in Jeff Rechkemmer, a third-generation Iowa farmer who has been farming in Ukraine for several years and who was looking for just the sort of adventure and opportunity that Mr. Fedorowycz offered.

In 2003 Mr. Fedorowycz quickly hired Mr. Rechkemmer as his director of agriculture and construction, agricultural development. The two decided on their first planting that year – a successful venture that produced plenty of corn, soybeans and lupins for export, and resulted in a business partnership they have called Iowa Ltd.

Mr. Rechkemmer, who arrived in Ukraine in 1994, is outspokenly upbeat about Ukraine. “I think that this is the last frontier for large-scale agriculture. American farmers have looked at Argentina and Brazil, but we found that most of the lands are already developed,” explained Mr. Rechkemmer.

Mr. Fedorowycz began gathering his farmland in 2000, after the presidential decree allowing individual villagers to lease their land parcels was issued. He knew the Cherkasy region because he had leased farmland in 2000, after the presidential decree allowing individual villagers to lease their land parcels was issued. He knew the Cherkasy region because he had leased comes to farmers in the area. So the new farmer from Detroit painstakingly began stitching together the land plots owned by villagers of five villages in the western Cherkasy Oblast to eventually come up with a land quilt that today stretches over 20,000 acres of some of the most fertile black loam on the face of the Earth. At first the process was far more complicated than simply signing over pieces of paper.

“Of course there was much opposition,” explained Mr. Fedorowycz. “A lot of the people looked at it as an outsider, an American, taking their land. They didn’t understand why the old kolkhoz system couldn’t work again.”

Mr. Fedorowycz convinced local officials to call town meetings to explain to the villagers that he was not out to rob them of what any farmer holds dearest. He offered them a fair price to lease their land.

Since then, he and his firm have given them many additional benefits as well, including free busing for the school children and textbooks for the elementary schools. Iowa Ltd. has initiated a doctors-on-wheels program to provide medical services to the five villages from which his company has leased land. Iowa Ltd. plows and harvests the land of the lessors and provides hay and straw for their live stock. In addition, it pays for funerals for them and their closest relatives.

Mr. Fedorowycz and Mr. Rechkemmer both retain a strong belief that farming can succeed only on a large scale. Mr. Fedorowycz holds the opinion that in the current global marketplace only economies of scale that is, large production volumes, bring an acceptable profit at the end of the annual business cycle and allows farmers to survive.

Mr. Fedorowycz also said that Ukrainians must begin to modernize not only their farming technology but their attitude toward crops historically grown on Ukrainian lands – a country that for two centuries was known as the “breadbasket of Europe.”

Today the Ukrainian breadbasket can barely feed its own after years of bad farming practices, erosion and soil neglect. Mr. Fedorowycz explains that he found it ironic that one of the common sayings among Ukrainian farmers is “Feed the soil, and it will feed you.” When Ukraine’s soil had in fact been deprived of proper fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides for decades.

Mr. Fedorowycz believes that now the tide has turned. He sees many new farmers, mostly large associations and companies, initiating modern agricultural practices and beginning to take the necessary steps to diversify the crops they cultivate and choose those that will provide the best yields.

“We do not want to compete with millions of other farmers struggling to grow wheat and barley,” explained Mr. Fedorowycz. “Ukraine is extremely short on protein crops – corn, soybeans, lupins – for example. These are world crops.”

He also noted that the Ukrainian farmer must overcome wastefulness in the least process and obtain the technology to gather as much harvest as quickly and efficiently as possible. Mr. Fedorowycz said old Soviet and newer Belarus tractors and combines just cannot compete with American makes such as Massey Ferguson, International Harvester and John Deere, which are slowly appearing in Ukraine.

Over the years Mr. Fedorowycz has purchased many imported combines and tractors capable of harvesting and threshing an assortment of seed bearing cultures.

The broad-shouldered Detroiter said that, inasmuch as Ukraine’s ecology is in general and the soil in particular had been so devastated by decades of abusive policies, only farmers who are able to inject massive investment would be able to undertake the necessary steps to rejuvenate and nurture the soil to its full potential.

Mr. Fedorowycz is an optimist. He has had to be, otherwise he would have long ago left Ukraine for tamer lands: the South Pole, Kosovo and the Congo come to mind.

He has stuck it out in Ukraine because he always thought that the opportunities existed, even if latent. While he realizes that now his time has come – he is preparing to add another 15,000 to 20,000 acres by the end of the year and to begin developing an irrigation system on the Cherkasy farm – he remains cautious and reserved about his accomplishments. For example, he would not reveal any individual or corporate profit or investment figures for this story. But he remains optimistic about doing business in Ukraine and is very excited about how Iowa Ltd. is developing.

“This country and this economy have given me the ability to build a company on a scale that would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, in the United States,” explained Mr. Fedorowycz. While wildly optimistic about Ukraine’s future, Mr. Fedorowycz’ advises would-be entrepreneurs to enter the Ukrainian market carefully because, while the opportunities are grand, there still remain large obstacles and old mind-sets to overcome.

“You have to do your homework. And, no question, you have to have good local lawyers and accountants who know how to work the system. Preferably they should be from the younger generation,” advised Mr. Fedorowycz. “The tide has changed in Ukraine. The investment climate is still difficult, but it is rewarding.”
**Jack Palance rejects award offered during “Russian Nights”**

_by Stephen Bandera_

NEW YORK — A week of “Russian Nights” held recently in Los Angeles culminated with an award ceremony at the prestigious Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood. The gala event on April 22 was organized in Los Angeles because it was just another step in the ongoing Russian Empire’s attempt to destroy Ukraine.

Jack Palance rejected the Russian award, which was slated to be received during the “Russian Nights” recently organized in Los Angeles because it was just another step in the ongoing Russian Empire’s attempt to destroy Ukraine — this time cultural — one of many efforts throughout history to portray Russians as Russian what they are not. Mr. Palance will have no part of this cultural Holodomor.

Mr. Palance’s rejection was more than a personal statement that he, Hoffman and Jack Palance — both of whom trace their roots to Ukraine. I’m Ukrainian. I’m proud to be Ukrainian and will not let anyone hijack my name or person,” Mr. Borisov observed.

Jack Palance, president and chairman of the Hollywood Trident Foundation, has been involved in efforts related that he said “I feel like I walked into the wrong room by mistake. I think that Russian film is interesting, but I have nothing to do with Russia or Russian film. My parents were born in Ukraine. I’m Ukrainian. I’m not Russian. So, excuse me, but I don’t belong here. It’s best if we leave.”

Mr. Palance and his entourage proceeded to get up and go. He was accompanied by four other guests, including his wife, Elaine, and the Hollywood Trident Foundation’s president, Peter Borisov. Mr. Palance refused to accept the award, even in private, or to view “72 Meters,” the movie being screened as the festival finale.

Speaking from Los Angeles, Mr. Borisov commented on Mr. Hoffman’s statement: “I don’t think it’s necessarily Mr. Hoffman’s fault. I think it’s tragic that he doesn’t even know his own family history. His ignorance of the basic facts is shocking. That Mr. Hoffman lends himself, unfortunately unwittingly, to the promotion of Ukraine and thus of himself, as he did by endorsing a festival that featured the highly offensive and racist movie “Rodya” (Driver for Vera).”

Mr. Borisov was referring to Vladimir Khotinenko’s 2003 film “Siemdesiat-Dva Khozha,” which was submitted for the Academy Awards, but few Ukrainians will ever see it. While the Ukrainian Government rejected the Ukrainian Parliament’s vote mandating certain minimum hours of Ukrainian language on Ukrainian television, back in Russia, government decrees ordering TV to switch to anyone who watches Ukrainian television. Only a minimum of popular shows are actually in Ukrainian, and the voice is overwhelmingly Russian. The legal requirement is met in some tricky ways. If you want to watch a Russian movie, you just have to watch it better watch in the middle of the night. Or, watch an American movie dubbed into Russian and approximate Ukrainian subtitles that are so tiny and flash by so fast that no one can see or read them — viewers just listen to the Russian.

According to the producers, that’s only fair since Russia is the real everyday language of Ukraine. They claim hardly anyone can speak Ukrainian, that Ukrainians now speak Russian. Besides, no Ukrainian-language films were ever made for this year, so there’s nothing to submit in Ukrainian anyway.

Those in “the business” in Ukraine claim the reason no Ukrainian-language films were made last year was purely economic — no one wants to see them. Never mind that it’s virtually impossible to get financing for them (due to the fear of business repercussions) and equally impossible to get them shown in motion picture theaters in Ukraine at any cost. Ukrainians have no influence over distribution — it’s all controlled from Moscow.

The major studios sell film and television products to Ukraine as part of a Russian-language package, including Belarus and other bits of the Russian empire. They argue that it’s cost effective and there is no demand for Ukrainian-language distribution. If the government required films in Ukrainian to be shown, the distributors would do so. Today, films play only in Russian. In time, the people get used to it and it becomes OK, even fashionable. To a large extent, that is why Russian has become so popular with the youth of Ukraine, especially in the large cities — it’s what their heroes speak on film and TV.

The Ukrainian market is about the size of France or Germany. Can you imagine films being shown routinely in France exclusively in German? What is happening in Ukraine is just the same. Anyone is taking back what it considers its own. The empire is striking back, everywhere.

The Ukrainian entry for the Academy Awards will be made by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture. “Vodi Dlia Viry” is a Russian film, filmed entirely in the Russian language, while using locations in Crimea and some hired talent from Ukraine. According to the producers, that’s only fair since Russian is the real everyday language of Ukraine. They claim hardly anyone can speak Ukrainian, that Ukrainians now speak Russian. Besides, no Ukrainian-language films were ever made for this year, so there’s nothing to submit in Ukrainian anyway.

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FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Ingert Kuczyn

Ukraine’s rarest stamps - Part II

The 40/20-hryvni courier field post stamps

Ukraine’s other rare stamps – the 40/20-hryvni values from a Courier Field Post (CFP) set issued in 1920 – are not nearly as well known as the Western Ukraine 10-hryvni Stanislaviv values described in the previous article. As a matter of fact, Ukraine’s Courier Field Post stamps are not even listed in some catalogues and the Scott Catalogue (the most widely consulted in North America) did not include them until 2002. Similar to its Western Ukrainian counterparts, only two examples of 40/20-hryvni CFP stamps are known. These stamps have, to my knowledge, never been offered at a major auction.

How the CFP stamps came about

Alliances and situations can change abruptly – particularly in times of war. The same Polish government that had fought and defeated the Western Ukrainian National Republic (WUNR) in 1919 (described in the previous article), one year later found itself allied with the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR; eastern or greater Ukraine) to fight off the specter of Bolshevism that threatened them both. Early victories in the spring of 1920 were followed by reverses that saw the UNR expelled from most Ukrainian territories and the UNR government moved to temporary exile in Tarnow, Poland.

Although it will likely never be established with certainty, the creation of the CFP may well be related to the Bolshevist defeat at the Battle of Warsaw (August 13-18, 1920), which decisively turned the tide of the struggle against Bolshevism.

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Ukraine's rarest stamps...

(Continued from page 10)

forces. The Poles and their Ukrainian allies now planned to resume the offensive against the Soviets in late August of 1920. It was at this time that the Ukrainian Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs issued two orders, Nos. 22 and 23, establishing a new temporary Courier Field Post service to carry official and semi-official military mail. A “Central Office” was set up by the Postal Ministry to handle mail between it and the “headquarters” of the chief otaman (commander-in-chief). Besides official letters, private correspondence (both registered and unregistered) from institutions and persons serving the UNR also was accepted.

The CFP service began to function on the day the orders were promulgated, May 26, 1920. Existing postal regulations were to be followed and prevailing postal rates remained in force. The only exceptions were the correspondence of the chief otaman, his office, and the president of the Council of Ministers and his office, which were exempt from paying any postal fees.

The CFP’s ability to speed messages may have aided the combined Polish-Ukrainian rout of Bolshevik forces at the Battle of Zamostia on August 29-31, 1920. The service remained in use for only about two months. The last known CFP cover dates to October 15, 1920. On October 12, 1920, the Polish government—in contravention to its treaty with Ukraine—signed a preliminary peace treaty with Soviet Russia. This action subsequently led to the internment of the Ukrainian Army in Polish-held territory on November 10, 1920, thus eliminating any further need for the field post.

CFP stamp details

Stamps of the shahy issue (Figure 1; released in 1918) and the 20-brynyia stamp (Figure 2; from 1919) were overprinted with the three values needed for the CFP service: 10, 20 and 40 brynyia (for official, regular, and registered mail respectively). CFP postage was designed for internal use only, i.e., it was not intended to be used on mail going to foreign countries. When letters were sent overseas, additional regular postage had to be applied. The overprint consisted of four lines that simply stated Courier Field Post and the new value (Figure 3). Each of the five shahy issue stamp types received one of the three new value designations (Figure 4).

A total of 13,000 shahy issue stamps were thus overprinted. Only 15 of the 20-brynyia stamps received an overprint (all of the 40 brynyia). About half of the stamps (6,400) were revaled to the ordinary (semi-official) letter rate of 20 brynyia; 1,000 stamps were reserved for official payments (15 brynyia per registration fee), while the remaining 5,600 stamps were designated for official mailings. Although the 15 revaled 20-brynyia stamps were originally considered proof or specimen copies meant simply as collectibles and to raise extra funds, some of them ended up being used to post mail.

A number of special cancellation and postmark devices were even created for the new service. Two circular metal cancels indicated the point of departure and destination, while a hexagonal rubber marking showed registration numberings (Figure 5). The CFP cover, owned by a famous collector from Britain, was damaged during the V-2 bombing of London in World War II. The building housing the collection was hit and began to burn. Although the fire was doused, the collection suffered additional water damage. The present whereabouts of the cover are unknown.
2,500-year-old city of Balaklava holds many secrets

by Danylo Kulykniu

KVY – There is much that impresses in Balaklava: a dramatic 300-meter drop off into the sea at the Cape of Ayu; the ruins of a nearby castle, and waves the color of bright emeralds that slap at your feet at the base of the rocky quay.

When you find yourself on Balaklava’s streets it’s as if you are walking in some enchanted town described in fairy tales, for the city is one of the most ancient in Ukraine, having also been known as Chymbalovo and Yambol.

This year Balaklava is 2,500 years old, an event that will be officially celebrated on September 8-9 in conjunction with another notable moment in this region’s rich history: the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War and the battle made famous by Alfred Tennyson’s epic poem, “The Charge of the Light Brigade.”

Invitations have gone out to many countries including Russia, Great Britain and France. London has said that it will send a member of the royal family, Balaklava is preparing. The British cemetary where the earl of Marlboro, a relative of the queen, was buried is also on the itinerary. Mr. Budnyj stressed that he was not “donating” the painting but “returning” it to its real owner, Ukraine, and he called on Ukrainians in the diaspora to follow suit if they have any works of art that rightfully belong in Ukraine.

“In the ‘60s and ‘70s, Mr. Budnyj said in an interview, “Soviet Emabass personnel sold many significant works of art – ‘na lieve’ (on the side) – including masterpieces from our churches by Ukranian artists. It’s not that they were bad, but that they came from churches, and one shouldn’t sell statues from churches. I think people would understand that.

“People have them. They’ve grown accustomed to them. But they may not have thought about what would happen to this country after they die,” he said, adding that their children or grandchildren, who may not appreciate its significance, may want them off in a museum.

“We should call on them to do the magnanimous and patriotic thing and return these items to Ukraine,” he said.

An Embassy spokesperson said that Mr. Budnyj’s painting will be authenti- cated by a representative of Ukraine’s Ministry of Culture who will be in Washington within a few weeks. They will also have to determine from which museum it was taken.

During the Independence Day Reception, the guests had an opportunity to view an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by contemporary Ukrainian artists Iryna Dankeyevych and Yevhen Prokopov. They could also talk to travel writer Andrew Evans and obtain a copy of his newly published guidebook, “Ukraine: The Braid Travel Guide.”

The August 24 reception at the Embassy, attended by many Ukrainian Americans, was the first of two events scheduled to mark Independence Day. A second reception will be held at a Washington hotel on September 8.

Mr. Pylyp is the person to whom Mrs. Ruth sent her e-mail apology after she received his phone call on August 24. The following night the building was properly lit after electricians corrected the error.

Mrs. Ruth told The Weekly that the top portion of the building – the tall thin mast which actually is a lightning rod can be lit by switch. On the current facade there are 327 light fixtures on the roofs and facades. The lights are then turned on at 8:30 p.m. every future August 24 by lighting the building with flood light. “Since one of my best friends from Harrisburg, Pa., my hometown, is Ukrainian American, this lighting tribute is special to me as well,” she said.
Two special tributes to an extraordinary dance teacher

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Scores of Ukrainian dancers from the United States and Canada will converge on Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall on November 13 to mark the illustrious 40-year history of the School of Ballet and Ukrainian Folk Dance founded by teacher/choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky. They’ll be observing the anniversary in the way they know best, with Ukrainian folk dancing – either performing, helping out backstage, or in the audience, applauding and tapping their toes in time to the rhythms on stage.

The concert, in preparation for almost a year, will also be a heartfelt memorial to their beloved “Pani Roma,” their teacher, choreographer and mentor, who passed away in May after a serious illness.

Members and alumni of the New York-based Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers will make up the major part of the dance roster, with dancers from Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky’s schools in New York and Whippany, N.J., strutting their stuff in a couple of numbers.

The two-hour Lincoln Center program, set for 8 p.m., will showcase regional Ukrainian folk dances and works choreographed by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky, such as “Ikona,” an eloquent piece dedicated to the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, to be performed on this occasion by dance alumni.

Designed by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky and artistic director Andriy Cybyk, the program will also include the Syzokryli ensemble’s traditional “Pryvit” (Welcome) and its rousing Hopak dance, the “Ivasiuk Suite,” which she choreographed to the music of the late composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk, and what planners describe as “a very large Hutsul suite.”

The New York school will contribute more Hutsul dances, while the Whippany school will trot out a Transcarpathian number choreographed by Ms. Bohachevsky’s son, Boris.

Singer Olya Chodoba-Fryz will appear as a guest artist, providing original Ivasiuk compositions as accompaniment for the “Ivasiuk Suite,” and will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

In another, separate tribute to the dance diva that takes place on Sunday, September 12, the Syzokryli ensemble will make a guest appearance at a gala Waldorf Astoria luncheon hosted by the Ukrainian Institute of America. The group’s performance will include the Hopak dance and a special tribute choreographed by Boris Bohachevsky.

The event will include the bestowal of the Ukrainian Institute’s first Lifetime Achievement Award. The luncheon is slated for 1 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the world-famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel and will have Lydia Kulbida, news anchor for WNYT Television in Albany, as mistress of ceremonies. Marta Ziełyk, senior diplomatic interpreter with the State Department, will offer reminiscences of early dance classes and participation in Pani Roma’s original “Popelushka” ballet.

Luncheon chairwoman Stephanie Dobriansky, whose committee consists of Roma Kekish Hrechynsky, Ulana Kekish, Oksana Kinal and Olya Rudyk, says that New York Gov. George Pataki has issued a proclamation in honor of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky, and letters of commendation have come in from New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey and several Ukrainian religious leaders.

Principals and speakers at both events are expected to laud the talents, dedication and gracious, smiling demeanor of a Ukrainian woman who began to study dance at the age of 3, became a member of the corps de ballet of the Lviv State Opera Company at 13 and the company’s youngest soloist a year later. She went on to become prima ballerina at the State Opera House in Innsbruck, Austria. She toured Europe extensively, then moved to Canada and became a guest artist with the Winnipeg Royal Ballet and later with the Ruth Sorell Dance Company in Montreal.

Solo appearances brought her to New York City and led to studies with such leading dance exponents as Martha Graham and Agnes DeMille. During an international tour that took her to Europe, the United States, Canada and Central America, her program of Ukrainian dances in varying styles, all based on Ukrainian themes, drew audience acclaim.

In 1961, deciding to dedicate all her energy and taken to teaching Ukrainian dance, she opened her School of Ballet and Ukrainian Folk Dance in New York. Ten years later she founded the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers and began to teach a Ukrainian dance camp and workshop at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y., with John Taras of the American Ballet Theater and Valentina Pereyashavets of the Kyiv Theater of Opera and Ballet among the guest teach-

(Continued on page 15)
Ukrainian National Association resort crowns its Miss Soyuzivka for 2005

by Sonia Semanyszyn

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – On August 14, precisely at midnight, a new Miss Soyuzivka was crowned here at the Ukrainian National Association’s upstate New York resort.

To give readers a flavor of the event, we won’t announce the name of the winner right at the top of this story, but will keep you in suspense.

The weekend got into gear on Friday evening, August 13, starting out with the traditional Odesa Night seafood buffet on the Veselka Patio. Later in the evening patrons were entertained by the Luna band playing tunes on the Tiki bar deck.

The next day, Saturday, brought perfect weather, which Soyuzivka guests enjoyed by being outside, whether by hiking, or swimming, or just lounging around on the Veselka Patio. Everyone’s spirits were flying high.

As the day progressed, Miss Soyuzivka contest coordinator Stephanie Hawryluk, a former UNA advisor, received applications from some beautiful young ladies. By the start of the judging session there were six applicants.

The judges revealed that they had a difficult time reaching a verdict, as all the applicants were very highly qualified and beautiful young ladies with dean’s list or National Honor Society credentials. After much deliberation, the scoring numbers were tallied and placed into a secret location until such time as the winners were announced.

During the deliberation period Luna played for the guests’ enjoyment, while the students and counselors from the dance camp entertained everyone with a rousing kolomyika.

There was some nostalgia in the air as all remembered that the grande dame of Ukrainian dance, Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, had passed away earlier this year, and she was dearly missed at this time. “Pani Roma,” as she was known, was an ardent supporter of the Miss Soyuzivka pageant every year.

The judges for this year’s event were: Orest Kyzk, who in his younger years was an employee of Soyuzivka, and today, having achieved financial success, still supports Soyuzivka; Bohdana Puzyk, director of the Children’s Day Camp at Soyuzivka; and Zenia Matkiwsky Olesnycky, a former Miss Soyuzivka.

Meanwhile, back at the zabava, after the resounding kolomyika, Sonia Semanyszyn called upon the outgoing Miss Soyuzivka, Dianna Shmerykowsky, to give her farewell speech, which she did in both Ukrainian and English. At this time, some of the former Miss Soyuzivkas who were present in the hall were announced, including Anya Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, Lydia Chopivsky-Benson.

Then, as midnight approached, Ms. Semanyszyn proceeded to announce the finalists of the Miss Soyuzivka pageant:

• second runner up – Sophia Panych, a dance camp counselor (who received a free weekend stay at Soyuzivka); and
• first runner up – Anya Rayko, a current Soyuzivka employee (who received a free week’s stay at Soyuzivka).

Finally, the name of Miss Soyuzivka for 2005 was announced: Maya Woloshyn. It is interesting to note that Maya’s mother also had also been a Miss Soyuzivka – 25 years earlier.

The new Miss Soyuzivka received a $300 stipend and a free week’s stay at the UNA resort.

The management and staff of Soyuzivka and the UNA concluded the evening’s contest by taking the opportunity to thank all the young ladies for their participation, the judges for their deliberations and Mrs. Hawryluk for her preparatory work in making this year’s Miss Soyuzivka contest a successful event.
2004 dance camp recital at Soyuzivka showcases Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky’s legacy
by Karen Chełak

KERIONKSON, N.Y. – The indomitable cultural legacy left to the community by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky was in full glorious display on Saturday evening, August 21, as the 26th annual Ukrainian Dance Camp recital was performed by students, counselors and teachers at the Ukrainian National Association’s resort Soyuzivka, nestled in the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains.

The Veselka Hall buzzed with excitement as parents, family, friends and guests laden with video cameras, took their seats. At 8 p.m., the lights dimmed and the storyteller for the evening, Bohdana Pryma, the children’s camp coordinator at Soyuzivka, began to relate the romantic story of “The Frog Princess.” This “kuka,” or tale, was one of Pani Roma’s favorites to produce because it is a perfect foil to showcase the various regional dances of Ukraine.

The show opened with a romantic couple’s dance that included three princes, sons of a regal queen from a far-away kingdom. The Queen, performed by Kristine Izak, an associate artistic director of workshop and the dance camps, gathers her sons and tells them it is time for them to take a bride. Each prince shoots an arrow and follows its path, vowing to marry the woman who finds it.

The first prince’s arrow falls in Zakarpattia. The wedding dance from this region is crisp and joyful as it culminates in the bride draped in a “rushnyk,” or ritual cloth, head covered with an elaborate headpiece, and a “vinok,” waving a beribboned maypole, while held up high by her beloved. Sonia Gargula, who traveled from Adelaide, Australia, to participate in the workshop as well as the dance camps, performed the bride’s role with a seamless blend of character and technical ability. Her performance was equally outstanding.

The other regional folk dances were created by Orlando Pagan of Queens, N.Y., and choreographer with the Duquesne University Tamburitzans, has toured extensively with the Alliances Dance Company and other dance groups.

The evening ended with an exciting “zabava” (dance) to the tunes of Fata Morgana at which the dancers still had make-up that truly sent shivers down the audience’s spines, this was an outstanding performance by a truly versatile dancer.

As the prince embarks on his journey to save the princess, he passes through the Hutsul region in search of her. This dance is always a rousing crowd pleaser with its cross-crossing lines, high-kicking steps and the warm rich costumes finished off by the bright “keptar” or vest. The prince also encounters charming “berry pickers” in the fields and young children celebrating spring.

When it seems that all hope of finding the princess is lost, the prince meets a wise old man who presents him with a magical crystal ball that will lead him to his bride’s location.

Since all great fairytales have happy endings, the prince finds the bride and saves the princess after he fights with the evil Baba Yaga. The nature of this character and technical ability. Her presence as the inspirational national dance of Ukraine, the Hopak. The entire camp performed this show-stopper in a swirling flash of color, gravity-defying leaps and dizzying spins.

The choreography for the ballet was created by Pani Roma. Ms. Izak choreographed the Hopak this year, while also creating the costumes, scenery and props for the show. This talented woman also was the “old man” in the ballet, plus she found the time to choreograph the berry picker dance, as well as the delicate dance of the water lilies.

The choreography for the ballet was created by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky and adapted by Mr. Pagan. The dance from Zakarpattia was choreographed by Boris Bohachevsky, associate artistic director. The other regional folk dances were created by Pani Roma. Ms. Izak choreographed the Hopak this year, while also creating the costumes, scenery and props for the show. This talented woman also was the “old man” in the ballet, plus she found the time to choreograph the berry picker dance, as well as the delicate dance of the water lilies.

Dance camp participants in a lively dance from Bukovyna.

During intermission the audience was treated to a wonderful performance by the beautiful and talented Olya Chodoba-Fryz, who sang a medley of Ukrainian songs, accompanied on the piano by Andrij Stasiw.

The true stars of the show, of course, were the campers. Children ranging in ages from 8 to 16 – from veteran campers of eight years to some who were first timers – accomplished something that made them proud, made their parents proud and made the community proud.

Although this was a bittersweet summer due to the passing of Pani Roma this spring, the newly formed Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation has taken the torch from Pani Roma and proved that it is truly committed to continuing her legacy. The foundation’s aim is to continue to teach this wonderful part of Ukrainian culture to future generations and to expand the number of schools in the community.

The Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation is under the executive direction of Anya Bohachevsky-Lownyevych. Its artistic advisors are Mr. Bohachevsky, Mr. Cybyk, Ms. Izak and Mr. Pagan. It has also been announced that Mr. Cybyk has been named artistic director of the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble and Mr. Pagan its ballet master.

The evening ended with an exciting “zabava” (dance) to the tunes of Fata Morgana at which the dancers still had enough energy to perform a rousing kolomyika.

Two special... (Continued from page 13)

ers. A dance workshop at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., and dance groups in Bridgeport, Conn.; Albany, Hemstead and Astoria, N.Y.; and the New Jersey communities of Whippany, Newark, Passaic and Perth Amboy were added later.

Undaunted by the demands of travel and exhausting rehearsal schedules, Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky considered her greatest achievement to be teaching Ukrainian young people from the United States and Canada the art of dance and training students in various techniques so that Ukrainian folk dance in a stylized form could be shown to the public on the highest possible artistic level.

Of the thousands of students who graduated from her classes, several have become successful professional dancers, among them Roma Sosenko, formerly of the New York City Ballet and now ballet mistress for the Miami Ballet; Orlando Pagan, a member of the Dance Theater of Harlem; Markian Kopytianskyi of the Atlanta Ballet; and Roksolana Babiuk, who performs with the H.T. Chen Company. Mr. Cybyk, a former dancer and choreographer with the Duquesne University Tamburitzans, has toured extensively with the Alliances Dance Company and other dance groups.
A decade...

(Continued from page 2)

activities during the past 10 years. Any growth of civil society has been in the face of official hostility and Soviet-style suspicion that NGOs are linked to Western intelligence agencies. Polls show that Ukrainians have become increasingly atomized during the last decade, further hindering the growth of civil society. Ukrainians have turned away from the government and now place their faith in their family (from 87 percent in 1994 to 97 percent today), friends (38 percent to 52 percent), and the Church (36 percent to 43 percent) (Suchańst, April 2004). The Freedom House “Nations in Transit” publication annually surveys all 27 post-Communist states. Since the evaluations began in 1997, Ukraine’s scores for electoral process, independent media, governance, constitutional-legislatival-judicial framework and corruption have all dropped.

Mr. Kuchma’s recent claim that “All the legal foundations needed for free mass media to function had been created” throughout independent Ukraine (Kyiv Post, July 1), is a judgment directly at odds with the views of the opposition, Western governments and think-tanks. The ranking for independent media in Ukraine “Nations in Transit,” is 5.5 out of 7 (with 7 being the worst ranking).

Mr. Kuchma and the first deputy chief of the presidential administration, Vasyl Baziv, have praised the president’s role in state-building, including the adoption of the 1996 Constitution (Ukrainska Pravda, July 5 and 12). It is doubtful that a Yanukovych victory over Lytvyn in the December 8 elections will bring about a clean slate. The left and right opposition candidates seem to be able to agree on one point: that oligarchs and corruption had grown on Kuchma’s watch. Mr. Lytvyn neglected to mention was that the semi-presidential system was a compromise with the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Kuchma’s draft would have created a Russian-style super-presidential system.

Trust in state institutions is very low. A survey by the Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Sociology found that people trusted astrologists more than state institutions (Suchańst, April 2004). Astrologists polled at 16 percent while only 13 percent trusted the president. Two areas that Mr. Kuchma ignored in his 1+1 TV interview were – not surprising – the rise of the oligarchs and the growth of corruption. Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn told a recent Agrarian Party congress that, “Ukraine is close to becoming a totally corrupt country ruled by oligarchs and party-clan groups” (Kyiv Post, July 1). What Mr. Lytvyn neglected to mention was that the oligarchs and corruption had grown on President Kuchma’s watch and when he (Lytvyn) was head of the presidential administration from 1997 to 2002.

In his first speech as a presidential candidate, Prime Minister Yanukovych also denounced the ineffectiveness of countless decrees and programs designed to fight corruption (Ukrainska Pravda, July 5 and 12). It is obvious that a Yanukovych victory would change anything. Mr. Kuchma’s 1994 promise to reduce the size of the shadow economy came to naught: 10 years later it still accounts for half of Ukraine’s GDP. Likewise, despite Mr. Lytvyn’s criticisms of oligarch clans, the Agrarian Party he leads will be supporting the head of Ukraine’s largest Donbas clan – Mr. Yanukovych – in the fall elections.

The twin issues of oligarchs and corruption will remain major themes in this year’s presidential election. Opinion polls show that Ukrainians believe that the “mafia, organized-crime world” is the most influential group in society (Suchańst, April). The left and right opposition candidates will denounce the oligarchs and corruption. Meanwhile, the authorities praise the rise of a “pragmatic and patriotic” “national bourgeoisie” that has allegedly come to realize that Ukraine’s era of “wild capitalism” is over (temnik.com.ua, July 12).
Ukrainian president... (Continued from page 2)

and I am convinced that it will be – a continuation and not a change, not a rejection of the decade that is ending. I repeat, not a rejection and not a change, but a continuation.

It is no secret that Mr. Kuchma sees such a continuation in a Viktor Yanukovych presidency, rather than in that of opposition candidate Viktor Yuschenko or any other hopeful challenge-wing Prime Minister Yanukovych’s presidential bid. Indeed, Mr. Kuchma denounced the Ukrainian opposition in his speech as “political Pygmies,” jeering that it is striving to come to power under the “Ukraine Without Kuchma” slogan, which was adopted by the opposition for a string of anti-Kuchma rallies in 2000-2002. “They expose themselves to ridicule, as a minimum because the incumbent president is not participating in the elections,” Mr. Kuchma said. “But I can assure all of my compatriots on one point: there will never be Kuchma without Ukraine.”

As on many earlier occasions, Mr. Kuchma credited himself with laying a basis for Ukraine’s European integration. “Europe-ization has already become a national idea [in Ukraine],” he emphasized. He upbraided the EU for proposing the European Neighborhood Policy rather than associate membership for Ukraine. “The status of a geographical neighbor of unified Europe – which is persistently proposed to us by some Europeans – contradicts our interests,” Mr. Kuchma said. “I am deeply convinced that the development of our relations under the principles of association with the EU will be a harbinger of the European integration.”

In this European context, Mr. Kuchma defended his policy of developing a strategic partnership with Russia. “The stable relations with our strategic partner, which are built on friendly, partner-like principles, are not a minus in our relations with Europe, as we are reproached by our opposition from the EU,” Mr. Kuchma said. “I am deeply convinced that the development of our relations under the principles of association with the EU will meet both Ukrainian and EU interests.”

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Moreover, a recent poll by the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies found that nearly half of Ukrainians – 48.7 percent – believe that their country is not independent, while only 38.1 percent think it is otherwise. Further casting doubts on Mr. Kuchma’s picture of Ukraine under his rule, 50 percent of respondents said the country’s level of economic development has declined since 1991. An even larger number of respondents, 61.5 percent, admitted that living standards in Ukraine have worsened during the 13 years of independence.

In other words, a majority of Ukrainians may not desire the political continuity President Kuchma spoke of in his Independence Day speech. But it is anybody’s guess whether they will identify Mr. Yanukovych as an agent of such continuity and Mr. Yuschenko as a new, better start for Ukraine on October 31 when they go to the polls.

In Memory Of

Mr. John (Ivan) Pich
May 15, 1921 (Boryslav, Ukraine) – August 8, 2003
Beloved son of late Stephen and Katerina
Beloved husband of Mrs. Anna Pich Beloved father of Maria, Por and Oksana, Jaroslav, Elizabeth, Orest and Bohdana and Olga
Beloved brother of Maria, Ewa, Katarina and Anna
Beloved uncle of Maria, Nadia, Wlodko, Marth, Oksana and Tanya
Beloved friend of many

You are loved and missed very much by your family and friends. May you rest in peace in Heaven.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY      SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 200418 No. 36

An appreciation... (Continued from page 5)

The Weekly’s editorial noted: “In the true spirit of fraternalism and in line with the salutary tradition of Sovyuz, Mr. Shipkula’s activity extended far beyond the confines of the UNA. As a director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, in association with the League of Americans of Ukrainian Descent, Mr. Shipkula will long be remembered by the hundreds of Ukrainian refugee families who found a haven in this country and started a new life with his help.”

“Mr. Shipkula’s was a rich, active, useful and rewarding life. Let his memory serve as an example for others to follow,” The Weekly editorialized.

Ukraine faces... (Continued from page 9)

will be declaring Russian the language of Ukraine. Mr. Stupka has so far failed to say that he is Ukrainian and not Russian, and is apparently content to sing whatever song the Muscovites pay him to sing. So far, Mr. Stupka has been silent on this issue.

Imposing a Russian film as Ukraine’s candidate for the Academy Awards would be disastrous for Ukrainian identity and years of hard work, brilliantly manipulated and financed, by the Russian Empire. It would be a reply of the old fraud at the United Nations, when Ukraine supposedly had its “own” vote. If there is no Ukrainian-language film to submit, then Ukraine should submit nothing. It is better to pass one year than to suffer the humiliation of submitting a film in a foreign language. Not every country submits a film every year; it’s O.K. to skip a year. And, then, Ukraine should help make Ukrainian-language films for 2006.

There is, however, no indication that this will happen. While everyone looks in the other direction, the back lots of Dovzhenko Studios are being sold off for apartments Dovzhenko Studios and other elements of the Ukrainian film and television industries are converted to nothing more than cheap places to make Russian movies. Sort of like Mexico is to Hollywood – only Hollywood does not submit its movies as Mexico’s candidates for the Academy Award.

At Dovzhenko and other studios in Kyiv, no one speaks Ukrainian. Even transplanted Ukrainian Americans from New York and Philadelphia speak either Russian or “surzhyk,” a bastardized jargon of Russian mixed with Ukrainian. They say, “Hey, what do you want from me? It’s business!” The Russian empire is succeeding in buying Ukraine because so many Ukrainians are willing to sell. They’re happy to see Russians coming to Ukraine with cash. They must think that Judas came to the Last Supper with a bag of silver coins because he was going to pick up the check. Another troubling aspect of the cultural Holodomor in Ukraine is the apparent indifference to it by U.S. government officials, just like the Holodomor of the 1930s. At a recent conference on Ukrainian media, a senior Voice of America official suggested the Ukrainian as the dominant language in Ukraine may not be realistic, that Ukrainians may need to start considering the “Irish solution.” Another speaker suggested there was really nothing wrong with a “bilingual Ukraine,” citing Canada as an example.

The problem, however, is not with the bilingual bit itself. If there was a move-ment for English to become the second language of Ukraine, it wouldn’t be such a problem. The problem is that Russian was the language of the Ukrainian Famine–Genocide – a genocide for which Russia still refuses to apologize. It’s like proposing that Armenia adopt Turkish as its sec-ond language or that Israel adopt German. In other areas of “the business,” the olskwala on Ukraine is equally offensive (if that’s possible). When being Ukrainian is acknowledged, it is usually a negative. In 2003 Ukrainians were linked to the terror-ar-rorism in Ben Affleck’s “The Sum of All Fears.” Now, Elijah Wood has some bla-tant rabidly Ukrainian-hating lines in “Everything is Illuminated.”

Explaining why his grandmother hates Ukraine, Jonathan, the lead character played by Woods, says, “The Ukrainians were terrible to the Jews. They were almost as bad as the Nazis. At the begin-ning of the war, a lot of Jews ran to the Nazis for protection from the Ukrainians.”

Contacted by several Ukrainians, Mr. Schreiber and his financier/producer, Marc Turtletaub, have refused to remove the hate-baiting lines. Driven by ignorance and distorted history, unfounded hatred is once again the winner. The movie, cur-rently filming in Prague, is set to be dis-tributed by WB, part of Warner Bros.

Instead of gathering sympathy for the victims of Chernobyl, another producer, Anatoly Fradis, has teamed with actor Ellory Elkayem to film parts of “Necropolis: Return of the Living Dead, Part 4” using Chernobyl as the backdrop. Far from becoming a battle cry against blatant disregard for Ukrainian life by the Russian empire, Chernobyl is becoming “cool” among those who pump low-end entertainment to kids.

The September issue of GamePro mag-azine (page 90) reviews a new game called “S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Shadow of Chernobyl,” developed by GSC Game World. “As a Stalker, your job is to get into the Zone, the area around the site of the disaster, and scavenge artifacts for fun and profit.” To do this the player must shoot his way through Ukrainian guards and deal with the zombies who now inhabit the Zone. The game’s target release date is winter 2004, just in time for Christmas.

Mr. Palance’s rejection of the Russian award was intended to make a statement. It was to stand up and say, “I am proud to be Ukrainian and I will fight for pride in my country.”

Ukraine will ensure that a potentially new wave of black movies will be watched by our neighbors in the United States.

The Weekly’s editorial noted: “In the true spirit of fraternalism and in line with the salutary tradition of Sovyuz, Mr. Shipkula’s activity extended far beyond the confines of the UNA. As a director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, in association with the League of Americans of Ukrainian Descent, Mr. Shipkula will long be remembered by the hundreds of Ukrainian refugee families who found a haven in this country and started a new life with his help.”

“Mr. Shipkula’s was a rich, active, useful and rewarding life. Let his memory serve as an example for others to follow,” The Weekly editorialized.

Ukraine will ensure that a potentially new wave of black movies...
Ukraine’s Olympic medals

Following are Ukraine’s medalists at the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, listed in chronological order. Ukraine’s team finished with nine gold medals, five silver and nine bronze, for a total of 23 medals. Ukraine came in 12th in the overall medal count.

Vladyslav Tretiak — fencing, individual saber — bronze
Yana Klochkova — swimming, 400 individual medley — gold
Olena Kostyvych — shooting, 10-meter air pistol — gold
Roman Hontiuk — judo, 81 kg — silver
Yana Klochkova — swimming, 200 individual medley — gold
Yuriy Bilobob — track and field, shot put — gold
Natalia Skakun — weightlifting, 63 kg — gold
Andrii Serdinov — swimming, 100 butterfly — bronze
Dmytro Hrachov — archery, team — bronze

Yuriy Nikitin — trampoline — gold
Ruslana Tarat — sailing, yngling — silver
Svitlana Matasheva — rowing, quadruple sculls — bronze
Serhi Hrin — gymnastics, parallel bars — gold
Serhi Bilouschenko — wrestling, freestyle, 48 kg — gold
Oleh Lykov — weightlifting, 105 kg — silver
Leonid Shaposhnikov — gymnastics, parallel bars — gold
Valerii Honcharov — track and field, 400 hurdles — bronze
Rodion Luka — sailing, 49er — silver
Heorhii Leonchyk — rowing, quadruple sculls — bronze
Inna Osypenko — kayaking, 500 — bronze
Hanna Balabanova — track and field, 400 hurdles — bronze
Olena Cherevatova — track and field, 100 hurdles — silver

Tetiana Terschusk-Antypova — track and field, 100 meters hurdles — bronze

Rodion Luka — sailing, 49er — silver
Inna Osypenko — rowing, quadruple sculls — bronze

Tetiana Serhiuk — track and field, 400 hurdles — bronze

UKRAINIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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New journal Ukrainian Literature debuts

by Vasyl Lupkh

NEW YORK – The birth of a new journal of English translations of Ukrainian literature was announced on the Internet on the day when Ukraine was celebrating its 13th anniversary of independence. The sponsor and publisher of this journal is the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.


This is the first English-language journal devoted to Ukrainian literature and the first Ukrainian literary periodical publication on the Internet. The editor of the journal is Maxim Tarnawsky, professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Toronto.

The international editorial board consists of Profs. Marko Pavlyshyn (Australia), Taras Koznarsky (Canada), Michael M. Naydyan and Askold Melnychuk (both from the U.S.). All are also members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Ulana Pasicky serves as the journal’s manuscript editor.

The first issue of Ukrainian Literature encompasses 263 pages and presents the prose works of Valerii Shevchuk, Volodymyr Dibrova, Spyrydon Cherkasenko, Levchenko Kononenko, Yuri Pokaliukha, Bohry Antonenka-Davydovsych, Vasyl Gabor, Lenid Mosendz, Emma Andriyewska and Oleksandr Ivanets; six of these are contemporary living writers of Ukraine.

Poetry is represented by selections from Taras Shevchenko and Pavlo Tychyna. Translators whose works appear in the issue are: Oliha Rudakivsych, Uliana Pasicky, Michael M. Naydyan, Anatole Bilinko, Svitlana Kobets, Mark Andryczuk, Yaryna Yakubych, Taras Koznarsky, Marta Baziauk, Marta D. Olynyk and Maria Kachmar.

This volume concludes with Marta Tamawsky’s selected bibliography of translations from Ukrainian literature published in book form since 2000. In his introduction, Prof. Tamawsky, the editor, notes the uneven history of translation from Ukrainian literature, commenting that “the establishment of a forum for translations of Ukrainian literature into English is an important development reversing a pattern of neglect.”

This journal of translations will be published biennially, both in electronic form and in a paper edition. It is likely not only to find thousands of new readers for Ukrainian literature in the English-speaking world, but also to exert an influence on the Ukrainian field of translations and even on the development of Ukrainian literature in general.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society is planning a major public presentation of the new journal in New York City after it is published biennially. The first issue will be available in the fall of this year. Additional issues will be published in 2006 and 2008. Both will be published by the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

Please send e-mail or hard copy of your resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: bomiak@ukrfcu.com

Bohdan Mizak, CEO
Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU
1729 Cottman Avenue
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President Leonid Kuchma of using illegal tactics to hinder and spend his election campaign. Mr. Yushchenko said during remarks to the press in the town of Borodianka that the incident at the Troyeshchyna Bazaar was the first in a series of provocations that pro-government officials were planning for the next two months to discredit his campaign. Oleksander Mileniin, chief of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the city of Kyiv announced the arrest of the first four suspects on August 28 and disclosed that the individuals were carrying in their possession plans for constructing explosive devices, which he called "a manual for terrorists."

"The motive for the explosions was to kindle political passions and cause social tension," Mr. Mileniin charged.

First Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Mykhailo Kornienko announced the fifth arrest later that day. Mr. Kornienko said that two of the suspects were carrying membership cards of the Ukrainian National Party (formerly the Ukrainian National Rukh Party) when they were apprehended. The political party, led by National Deputy Yuriy Kostenko, makes up a sizable portion of the Our Ukraine coalition.

Mr. Kostenko immediately denounced the assertions made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and noted that a review of the party's membership rolls determined that none of the four suspects were now or had ever been members.

"If the militia found membership documents on those arrested, then someone forged them," explained Mr. Kostenko, who called any presumption that his party was involved in the blasts an "absurdity."

He said the statements by the state militia were more "provocations."

Mr. Kostenko charged that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with the Procurator General's Office and the State Security Service, laid the groundwork for a series of orchestrated provocations that pro-government officials were planning for the next two months to discredit his campaign.

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PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Charlie A. Stek was named the 2003 Conservationist of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Mr. Stek, 49, is the projects director for U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and has spent nearly 20 years working for the senior senator from Maryland.

“This award means a great deal to me and today is a day I will always remember,” Mr. Stek said in an acceptance speech during the awards ceremony, which was held in Washington on January 21. The Conservationist of the Year award, first bestowed in 1980, has previously gone to members of Congress and other prominent individuals.

Mr. Stek received the award for a number of reasons. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation cited his work as the principal author of the Chesapeake Restoration Act of 2000, which authorized $40 million annually to aid the work of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as his efforts to expand funding for conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Additionally, the foundation cited Mr. Stek’s writing of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Removal Assistance Act to provide $660 million over five years to support installation of nutrient removal technologies at major wastewater treatment plants; and his development of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Act.

According to the foundation, the Conservationist of the Year award acknowledges, encourages and promotes environmental stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay region and “recognizes superlative service and commitment to the restoration and protection of the Bay watershed.”

Mr. Stek, born and raised in New Jersey’s Woodbridge Township, attended church at Ukrainian Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy. He began his career in Washington as a volunteer in 1978 and was hired the following year. He joined Sen. Sarbanes’ staff in 1985.

During the awards ceremony, Mr. Stek was introduced by Sen. Sarbanes. “I am truly overwhelmed both by that generous introduction and by even being considered for this award,” Mr. Stek said during his acceptance speech. “He is not only a great boss, but one of the most principled, intelligent, effective and hard working individuals I have ever known.”

“The accomplishments for which I am being feted today are really his accomplishments and I know, first hand, that the vast majority of the Federal Bay restoration programs that are in place today – and practically every congressional legislative initiative to restore the Bay for the past 18 years would not have been possible but for his leadership,” Mr. Stek said of his boss.

Mr. Stek is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 155. News of Mr. Stek’s award was forwarded to The Weekly last week by fellow UNA’er Tom Hawrylko.

HOUSTON – Andrew D. Kuchta recently graduated from Shadowbriar Elementary School and was presented with the Presidential Academic Excellence Award during graduation ceremonies.

This award is presented to those students who have achieved an overall A average, a 95 percent or higher in mathematics national testing, and a 90 percent or higher in reading national testing during their elementary school years.

Andrew received the award, which is signed by President George W. Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige, and a letter of congratulations from the president. Andrew is the son of Eugene and Irene Kuchta, and the grandson of the late Ihor and Josephine Kuchta of Hillside, N.J., and Maria and the late Petro Majnich of North Port, Fla., formerly of Willimantic, Conn.

The Kuchta family is active in Houston’s Ukrainian community and they are all members of the Ukrainian National Association. Andrew is a member of Branch 368.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Elementary school grad gets presidential award

Andrew Kuchta

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association.

All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person’s UNA branch number.

Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.
Committee, whose goal was to preserve UNA’s plan to open a Washington office under the jurisdiction of Laws which gave the Supreme Assembly Canadian operations, as well as the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the Ukrainian American Fraternal Association regarding a merger with the UNA, after which they overwhelmingly approved a resolution and the calling for further steps toward a merger.

The convention was addressed by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William H. Taft IV, who said that “Ukrainians and Americans both stand as an obstacle to the path toward subjecting free people around the globe.” He spoke of Ukraine as “the home of people whose resistance to Soviet domination reached heroic proportions” – a reference to the millions who perished in the Great Famine. The deputy secretary also spoke about U.S. defense issues and the efforts of the administration of President Ronald Reagan to bolster the country’s defense.

During the convention’s final day, May 30, delegates directed the newly elected Supreme Executive Committee to: request the U.S. and Canada to pressure the Soviet government to open channels of assistance to victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and to help establish direct contacts with evacuees; demand that the U.S. and Canadian governments, respectively, investigate the work of the OSI and the Deschenes Commission as part of the deal for U.S. aid; and in cases against persons suspected of crimes during World War II, insist that the Helsinki Conference on Human Rights and the U.N. engage the services of a professional demographer to conduct a study of UNA membership and the calling for further steps toward a merger.

Delegates also heard a report on the ongoing negotiations with the Ukrainian Fraternal Association regarding a merger with the UNA, after which they overwhelmingly approved a resolution and the calling for further steps toward a merger.

The convention was addressed by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William H. Taft IV, who said that “Ukrainians and Americans both stand as an obstacle to the path toward subjecting free people around the globe.” He spoke of Ukraine as “the home of people whose resistance to Soviet domination reached heroic proportions” – a reference to the millions who perished in the Great Famine. The deputy secretary also spoke about U.S. defense issues and the efforts of the administration of President Ronald Reagan to bolster the country’s defense.

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This week’s installment of “The News from Here” reflects the ever-expanding contacts between Ukrainians in the diaspora and Ukrainians from Ukraine.

First, from Saskatoon, comes news of the fulfillment of a young Ukrainian Canadian woman’s dream: dancing with the famed Virsky dance ensemble of Ukraine.

Then, from New York City, comes news of a new endeavor that aims to help immigrants from Ukraine adjust to life in a new country and to learn the English language. Most recently, the program also took a step in another direction: instituting courses of Ukrainian for Ukrainian Americans.

SASKATOON: Dancer earns a spot with Virsky troupe

In September 2003 Lana Kubin traveled to Ukraine to dance with the Virsky Ensemble, a Ukrainian dance troupe that many consider one of the best. From the beginning Ms. Kubin knew that hard work awaited her in Ukraine – both to earn a spot in Virsky, and how to make a life in Ukraine.

Ms. Kubin’s dancing career began with her first ballet classes at the age of 5 at Lusia Pavlychenko’s Saskatoon School of Ballet, now called School of Dance, according to The Star Phoenix. Ms. Kubin enjoyed dancing so much that she took jazz and tap lessons as well. Not until Ms. Kubin was 12 years old, however, did she begin Ukrainian dancing.

Ms. Kubin shared her feelings about Ukrainian dance with The Star Phoenix: “It’s so unlike any other dance form. You fall in love with it.” Ms. Kubin pursued her passion and became involved with the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble in Canada. While the troupe was in Ukraine in July 2003 on a performance trip the dancers had a workshop with Virsky. Ms. Kubin then shared with Pavlychenko’s artistic director, Serhij Koroliuk, her desire to one day return to Ukraine and live there for a time. After he told her that she had a future as a dancer, she auditioned for Virsky Ensemble. Virsky Ensemble Director Myroslav Vantukh finally informed Mr. Koroliuk that Ms. Kubin was accepted to the Virsky Ensemble on a probational basis – she had a great amount of dance ensemble repertoire to master before being given a spot in the highly competitive group of which Ms. Kubin was well aware. “One learns early on that you’d better know what you’re doing because there is a line-up of people to take your place if you don’t,” she said. The Ukrainian dancing that she learned in Canada differed from that taught in Ukraine, but with studio classes Ms. Kubin was able to dance with the ensemble.

Not only has Ms. Kubin learned more about Ukrainian dancing, she has also learned the Ukrainian way of life. She first discovered that most people do not speak Ukrainian, but Russian. Her first successful solo trip to the bazaar to buy groceries excited her, though it seemed commonplace to her dormmates. The native Canadian’s trip to the “dirty, loud, overcrowded” market helped her realize how “spoiled” she and others are in Canada.

Ms. Kubin has enjoyed living and dancing in Ukraine where, she said, “there is a spirit ... that is unexplainable.” Though she leads an extremely demanding lifestyle – dancing “from sun-up to sun-down, six days a week,” Ms. Kubin is grateful for her opportunity.

Not only has 26 year-old Ms. Kubin achieved great success for a Ukrainian dancer – to dance with the Virsky Ensemble – she also has a degree in sociology and an advanced certificate in psychology from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Ms. Kubin has signed a contract to spend the next season with Virsky, but she is currently spending the summer in Saskatoon. She recently appeared with the Pavlychenko ensemble at the 39th edition of Canada’s National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba.

NEW YORK: Center’s programs aimed at new immigrants, Ukrainian Americans

Nearly two years ago the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) opened “Ukrainian Svitlytsia,” an information and education center for new immigrants from Ukraine, in New York City.

Experienced instructors from Ukraine – Larissa Goulovich, Nelya Mykhayliv and Nadia Toderika – help newcomers study English, with a selection of four levels of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

Students at the center can also prepare for their citizenship tests under the instruction of Natalia Turchak, and gain computer experience with the help of computer

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NEWSBRIEFS
(Continued from page 2)
Opposition staffer lambastes police
KYIV – Ihor Hryniv, deputy head of the presidential campaign staff of Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, told journalists on August 27 that police resorted to a “planned provocation” and a “manipulation technique” in linking recent blasts at a market in Kyiv to the Ukrainian National Party (UNP), a member of Our Ukraine, Interfax reported. “There is a large distance between UNP members and [Yushchenko], the candidate who joined [the presidential race] by way of self-nomination,” Mr. Hryniv added. Last week police arrested five suspects in the blasts and claimed that two of them had UNP membership cards. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pope greets Ukraine on Independence Day
KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma received a greeting on Ukrainian Independence Day from Pope John Paul II. The text of the telegram reads: “I wish unity and solidarity, prosperity due to legitimate economic progress, and respect for fundamental human rights, as well as peace, freedom and prosperity for Ukraine and its people.” (Action Ukraine Report)

George Bush sends congrats to Ukraine
WASHINGTON – U.S. President George W. Bush sent a letter congratulating Ukraine on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Dated August 20, the letter noted: “On behalf of the people of the United States, I extend congratulations on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence. Nothing can secure that legacy more than the holding of free, fair and transparent elections this fall, and turning your high office over to a successor who embodies the democratic choice of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine’s many friends in the United States will continue to watch Ukraine’s democratic development with great interest.” Mr. Bush concluded his letter with “best wishes for peace, freedom and prosperity for Ukraine and its people.” (Action Ukraine Report)

President opens Danube delta canal
KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on August 26 officially inaugurated navigation on the newly built Bystraya Canal in the Danube River Delta, Interfax reported. “I give the command to restore navigation in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta,” Mr. Kuchma said. “In the future, the estuary of Europe’s longest river may transform into a large European transport intersection,” he added. Since its start in May, Ukraine’s Bystraya Canal project has been subject to international criticism, primarily because of fears that it may damage the Danube Delta’s unique ecosystem (see “RFE/RL Newsline,” 25 August 2004). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romania to sue Ukraine over canal
BUCHAREST – The Romanian government said on August 26 that it will sue the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Ukraine’s opening of a shipping canal in the Danube delta, Reuters reported. Construction on the Bystraya Canal was officially inaugurated the same day by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, and the foreign affairs, transport, environment and justice ministers met to discuss the issue. Environmentalists claim that changes to the delta’s water table will harm the extensive flora and fauna in the area, which is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Kuchma blasts critics of canal
KYIV – The press service of Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko said on August 25 that the leaflets distributed by unknown individuals in the city the previous day and signaling an intention of “certain destructive forces” to move the Ukrainian capital from Kyiv to Donetsk are fake, Interfax reported. “The leaflet, allegedly signed by the Kyiv mayor, informed Kyiv residents about plans of certain destructive forces to move the capital from Kyiv to Donetsk [and] included an assurance that this [move] will be prevent ed,” the press service said. “The falsified leaflet was apparently intended to inflame antagonism between the presidential candidates representing the above-mentioned regions and sow discord between Kyiv and Donetsk.” Mayor Omelchenko is one of the 26 candidates for the October 31 presidential ballot. Another presidential candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, was chairman of the Donetsk Oblast in 1997-2002 and is widely seen as the most important promoter of Donetsk’s regional interests at the central-government level. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New bishop named for UOC-KP in Odessa
KYIV – Patriarch Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), on August 6 appointed Bishop Yakov (Makarchuk) as bishop of Odessa and Baltia and head of the southern Ukrainian Odessa Eparchy of the UOC-KP. Bishop Yakov was formerly the bishop of Cherkasy for the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. The decision to appoint Bishop Yakov was made at a session of the Holy Synod of the UOC-KP. Bishop Paisii (Dmokhovskyi), who headed the UOC-KP’s Odessa Eparchy temporarily, was removed from the episcopate of the UOC-KP by a decision of the Synod. Bishop Yakov was admitted to the episcopate of the UOC-KP after he forwarded a petition to the Synod. He also participated in the work of the National Sobor (Assembly) of the UOC-KP of July 14-16 as a guest. Bishop Yakov (secular name Yaroslav Ivanovych Makarchuk) was born in 1952. In 1987 he entered the Leningrad Seminary of the Russian Orthodox Church. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1990 and he was received into the UAOC’s Lviv Eparchy. In 1998 he was ordained bishop. In 2002-2003, conflicts arose among UAOC bishops, resulting in a schism. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)
SILVER SPRING, Md.: The Washington Ukrainian Festival, sponsored by the Festival Committee with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine and local organizations, will be held on the grounds of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 5100 New Hampshire Ave. The festivities will be opened by Archbishop Antony and Mykhailo Renzik, ambassador of Ukraine. The program will feature Ukrainian singers, dancers and other performers from the U.S., Canada and Ukraine. It will also include the well-known violin virtuoso Vasyl Popadiuk from Canada. All are invited to view a variety of vendors featuring and selling Ukrainian crafts, arts, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and much more, as well as Ukrainian and American food concessions and the now famous Kozak Beer Garden with its selection of Ukrainian beers and lagers. There will be a dance (zabava) on Saturday in the St. Andrew Founders Hall with a Ukrainian band. For further information contact Val Zabijaka, (301) 593-5516, or visit www.StAndrewUOC.org.

Friday-Sunday, October 8-10

SOMERSET, N.J.: The League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC) will hold its 66th annual national convention. The Garden State Council is hosting the convention at the Holiday Inn, 195 Davidson Ave., Somerset, N.J. Registration begins Friday, October 8. The national board will conduct its general business meeting and planning sessions. The evening will be celebrated with a welcome reception – “A Ukrainian Luau.” Saturday, October 9, will begin with a prayer session followed by a breakfast with a keynote speaker who will lead into afternoon workshops. A banquet and hall will be held in Alexander’s at the hotel. On Sunday, October 10, there will be a divine liturgy followed by a common breakfast with closing remarks from the national board. During the course of the weekend the LUC will honor Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, marking the 60th anniversary of his death. For more information contact John Kost, (973) 471-1874, or Marion Hnecy, (201) 843-9960.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost ($20 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph of no more than 100 words; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of $20 for each time the item appears to appear and indicate date(s) of issues in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information may be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

2,500-year-old...

(Continued from page 12)

2,500-year-old... (Continued from page 25)

specialist Yuriy Babych. Ukrainians can learn or improve their Ukrainian oral or linguistic goals.

2,500-year-old...

(Continued from page 12)

tained from the Latin inscriptions on upturned stone plates. Archeologists have also found statues of Hercules, Diana and other cult figures at the site. In the second century the independent state of Khersones Tavria fell upon hard times and turned to the Roman Empire for military help. One of the divisions sent by Rome was dispatched to Balaklava not far from Khersones. An inscription in Latin on a stone plate at Jupiter Dolichenus ruins states: “to Jupiter, the best and the biggest Dolichenus.”

Soviet Anatoliy Valenti, the military tribune of the First Italian Legion, built this temple with the help of Nova Ulpian, a centuri- on of the same legion. The temple is almost exclusively used locally available materi- als. While essentially a fortress, the Jupiter Dolichenus ruins also contain fea- tures of typical cult temples of that era. Future plans call for the restoration of the site to its original design and for adding to it the historical and archaeological preserve of Khesrones Tavriky in Sevastopol.

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(Continued from page 1)
PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 11

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a lecture by Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak of Ivan Franko University of Lviv on the subject “Ivan Franko and the Women in His Life.” The lecture will take place at the society’s building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrios Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral is sponsoring an end-of-summer “zabava” featuring the music of Fata Morgana. The zabava will be held at the St. Demetrios Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret, N.J., just off Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. Tickets are $30 for adults and $20 for students under age 21. Admission includes a Ukrainian dish, cake, coffee, beer, wine and soda. There will be a cash bar. Doors open at 7 p.m., and dancing starts at 8 p.m. For tickets and table reservations please call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: St. Andrew’s Brotherhood at St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Memorial Church invites the entire community to the South Bound Brook Ukrainian Memorial Church invites the entire community to the 25th anniversary of its church grounds, located on Main Street in South Bound Brook. Cost of food and drinks: $15 for adults; $5 for children. For more information call Boir Suron, (908) 231-7266, or Wawy Donoshenko, (732) 566-6866.

Saturday - Sunday, September 11 - 12

CHICAGO: Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Church in Chicago usually invites the entire community to the “Ukrainian Village Oktoberfest.” Located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village at Chicago Avenue and Oakley Boulevard, this neighborhood festival will feature a beer garden, live German and Ukrainian music, a performance of the Homotvyno Ukrainian dance ensemble, great food, raffles, games and much more. The festivities are on Saturday, at 3-10 p.m., and Sunday at 1-10 p.m. On Saturday evening there will be a dance in the church hall starting at 9 p.m. An entry fee donation of $5 for the festival and $5 for the dance go to the ongoing support of the parish. For festival vendor applications please contact the parish office, (312) 829-5209.

Sunday, September 12

NEW YORK CITY: The life and legacy of the late Roma Pryma Bohachevska, the renowned prima ballerina, and teacher and promoter of Ukrainian folk dance, will be celebrated at a tribute luncheon sponsored by the Shevchenko Ukrainian National Association. Luncheon tickets are $120 per person; and can be purchased by check or credit card through the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E 79th St, New York, NY 10021; telephone, (212) 399-8283; or by e-mail, for additional information call (212) 254-5130.

October 2, 2004

Ellenville High School Reunion, Class of ’49

October 3, 2004

Republican Fundraising Banquet, 4:30 pm

October 9, 2004

Wedding - Tanya Blahitka and

October 10, 2004

KLK Weekend - General Meeting

October 12-14, 2004

KKW Weekend - General Meeting & 80th Anniversary Banquet

October 14, 2004

Ellenville Retired Teachers Luncheon

October 15, 2004

Ellenville High School Reunion, Class of ’84

October 16, 2004

Wedding - Alexandra Anastasia Holubec and David Scott Nischel

October 21, 2004

Haloween Weekend with children’s costume parade, costume zabava & more

October 25-26, 2004

Thanksgiving Weekend Packages Available

October 27, 2004

NuDay Club Banquet

October 24-25, 2004

Plat Sorority Rada – “Spartanyk”

September 25, 2004

Wedding - Catherine O’Connell and Peter Zieyek

September 24-25, 2004

Plat Sorority Rada – “Spartanyk”

September 22, 2004

Zabava featuring Fata Morgana and

September 21, 2004

Noon Day Club Banquet

August 12, 2004

SOUTH BEACH, Fla.: The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) invites attorneys and law students to its 2004 convention, to be held concurrently with that of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel. Keynote Speaker is Orest Dychakwsky, senior staff advisor to the Helsinki Commission, who will speak on “The Turning Point: Ukraine’s Upcoming Election.” For hotel reservations call (877) LOEWS-MSB. Visit www.uaba.org for registration, convention agenda, and information. E-mail: uaba@american-law.com. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134.

Tuesday, September 14

IRVINGTON, N.J./NEW YORK: Muzyczna Diskhilla – Music & Me, will hold its first session at the Ukrainian Community Center on 140 Prospect Ave. in Irvington on Tuesday, September 14, and at the Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc., at 2 E. 79th St. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134.

September 16

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Ukrainian World Council Group Cultural Foundation will cooperate with the Embassy of Ukraine to open the upcoming exhibition, titled “Radoslav Zak. Tradition and the Present,” which will be on display until October 15. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134.

Thursday, September 16

BOSTON: The 57th Ukrainian American Veterans Convention will take place at the Holiday Inn in Dedham, Mass. The annual Commander’s Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, September 18, starting at 6 p.m., with music provided by the New York band “Vechirka.” The banquet/ball is open to the public. Banquet tickets are $45 per person; dance-only tickets sold only at the door are $20 per person. For more information contact Stephen Kostecki, kostecski46@uol.com.

Saturday, September 18

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a program on “Contemporary Musical Culture of the South of Ukraine,” and the other by Dr. Hanna Chomachinko on “Contemporary Folk Culture of the South of Ukraine.” These lectures, accompanied by video and audio illustrations, will take place at the society’s building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Wednesday, September 22-26

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